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PAGE 01 STATE 308146
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PAGE 02 STATE 308146

USDEL MBFR VIENNA FOR AMBASSADOR

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-WARNING NOTICE: SENSITIVE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED
--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

I R A Q : T H E C A M P A I G N A G A I N S T
T H E K U R D S

1. (S/NF) THE RECENT ANTI-KURDISH CAMPAIGN IN NORTHERN IRAQ--LATEST IN A SERIES OF COUNTERINSURGENCY DRIVES--WAS AN UNUSUALLY LARGE OPERATION AND HEIGHTENED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO IRAQI DOMESTIC USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. IT WILL HAVE LITTLE LONG-TERM EFFECT ON IRAQ'S PROBLEM WITH DISSIDENT KURDS UNLESS THE IRAQIS FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HUGE RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS. EVEN THEN, KURDS WILL AWAYS FILTER BACK INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO BEDEVIL BAGHDAD.

2. (S/NF) THIS LATEST CAMPAIGN, AND PROBABLY FUTURE ONES, IN THE LONG, EPISODIC INTERNAL WAR WITH THE KURDS REFLECT IRAQ'S IRRITATION AT KURDISH "TREACHERY" DURING THE WAR AND ITS DETERMINATION TO "SOLVE" THE KURDISH PROBLEM WHILE ITS ARMY REMAINS AT WARTIME STRENGTH.

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SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 308146

THE HAMMER FALLS IN NORTHERN KURDISTAN

3. (S/NF) ENRAGED BY STEPPED-UP LEVELS OF KURDISH-IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAQI KURDISTAN IN 1987, IRAQ HAS FOR THE PAST YEAR BEEN CONDUCTING MARKEDLY LARGER INTERNAL PACIFICATION CAMPAIGNS AGAINST ITS KURDS. AS SOON AS HOSTILITIES ENDED WITH IRAN, BAGHDAD MOUNTED A MAJOR DRIVE WHICH ENDED BY ABOUT SEPTEMBER 10.

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... WITH SOME HELP FROM "OUR" KURDS

4. (S/NF) THESE FORCES WERE ASSISTED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF KURDISH-MANNED NATIONAL DEFENSE BATTALIONS--REPORTEDLY NEWLY ENHANCED BY VOLUNTEERS INSPIRED BY IRAQ'S STRING OF MILITARY SUCCESSES THIS YEAR. THESE UNITS DO MUCH OF THE ACTUAL HILL-FIGHTING, PATROLLING, AND VILLAGE-DESTRUCTION MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE MORE CUMBERSOME REGULAR UNITS.

5. (S/NF) IRONICALLY FOR THESE "PRO-GOVERNMENT" KURDS (BASICALLY FEUDAL LEVIES HIRED OUT BY THEIR TRIBAL CHIEFTAINS), THE ACTION IN KURDISTAN CAME AT THE SAME TIME THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING STEPS TO CONSCRIPT MILITARY-AGE KURDISH FIGHTERS FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE BATTALIONS INTO REGULAR ARMY UNITS STATIONED AWAY FROM THEIR HOMELAND.

CHEMICALS

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PAGE 04 STATE 308146

6. (S/NF) THE DRIVE NORTH TOWARD THE TURKISH BORDER AGAINST KURDISH DISSIDENTS OF THE BARZANI FAMILY'S KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY (KDP) FOLLOWED CHEMICAL BOMBINGS ON AUGUST 25 OF VILLAGES AND KDP BASES AND HEADQUARTERS FACILITIES ALL ALONG THE BORDER. MANY THOUSANDS OF KURDISH NONCOMBATANTS FLED INTO TURKEY AHEAD OF THE IRAQI SWEEPS, WHICH ENCOUNTERED LITTLE EFFECTIVE RESISTANCE FROM THE SCATTERED KURDISH FORCES.

A SECOND PHASE?

7. (S/NF) IRAQ HAD PLANNED TO FOLLOW UP THIS OPERATION WITH A MOVE AGAINST THE FORCES OF THE TALABANI PATRIOTIC UNION OF KURDISTAN FARTHER SOUTH IN THE HILLS OF THE SULAYMANIYAH DISTRICT. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF FULL-SCALE

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SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS ARE STILL PLANNED FOR THIS SECTOR, OR IF THE "GENERAL AMNESTY" FOR KURDS BAGHDAD PROCLAIMED IN RESPONSE TO TURKISH CONCERN ABOUT THE INFLUX OF IRAQI KURDS HAS SUPERSEDED ITS MILITARY PLANS.

KURDS HAVE WE ALWAYS WITH US

8. (S/NF) THE LATEST CAMPAIGN WAS PROBABLY BAGHDAD'S OPENING GUN IN A CONCERTED POST-WAR EFFORT TO SUBDUE THE KURDS ONCE AND FOR ALL, WHILE IRAQI FORCES ARE AT WARTIME STRENGTH. BUT ALTHOUGH THE LATEST OPERATION WAS LARGE COMPARED TO THE USUAL ANTI-KURD SWEEPS AND HAD THE STATED GOAL OF CLEARING BORDER AREAS OF DISSIDENTS, IF NOT ALL RESIDENTS, IT ALONE WILL HAVE LITTLE LONG-TERM EFFECT.

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PAGE 05

STATE 308146

KURDS WILL FILTER BACK INTO THESE REMOTE HILLS, AND MOST WILL REMAIN ANTI-GOVERNMENT. SHULTZ

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